

Restoring Illegal OHV Trespasses

A Cooperative Effort Between the
Bureau of Land Management and the
Environmental Careers Organization

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Outline of discussion

- Overview of issues
- Description of Restoration Methods
- Benefits/Constraints of Methods
- Costs
- Conclusions

Multi-Use: Recreation and Habitat

Designated route system is designed to manage OHV use so that important resources are not harmed.

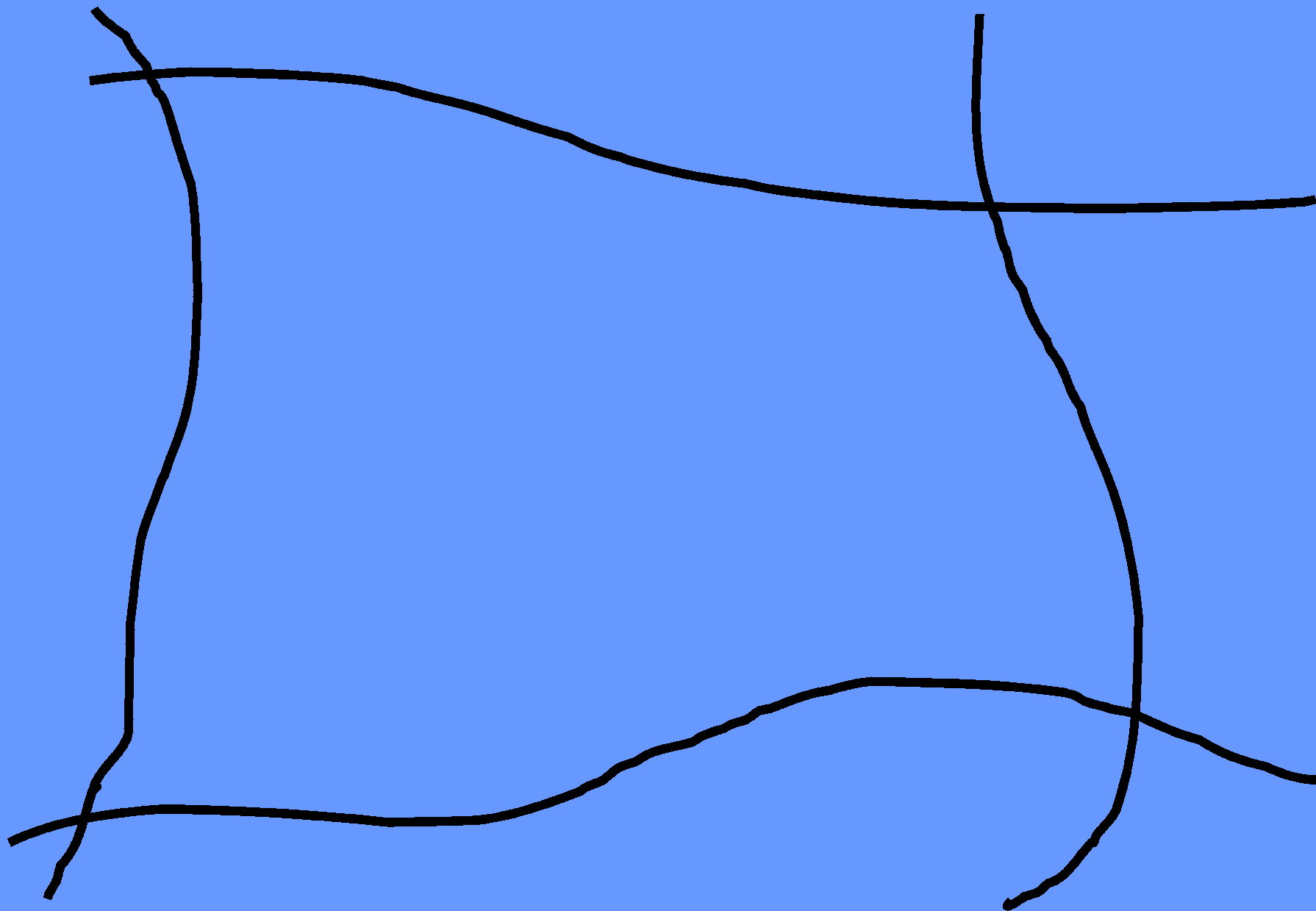
286 miles in Jawbone-
Butterbrecht ACEC

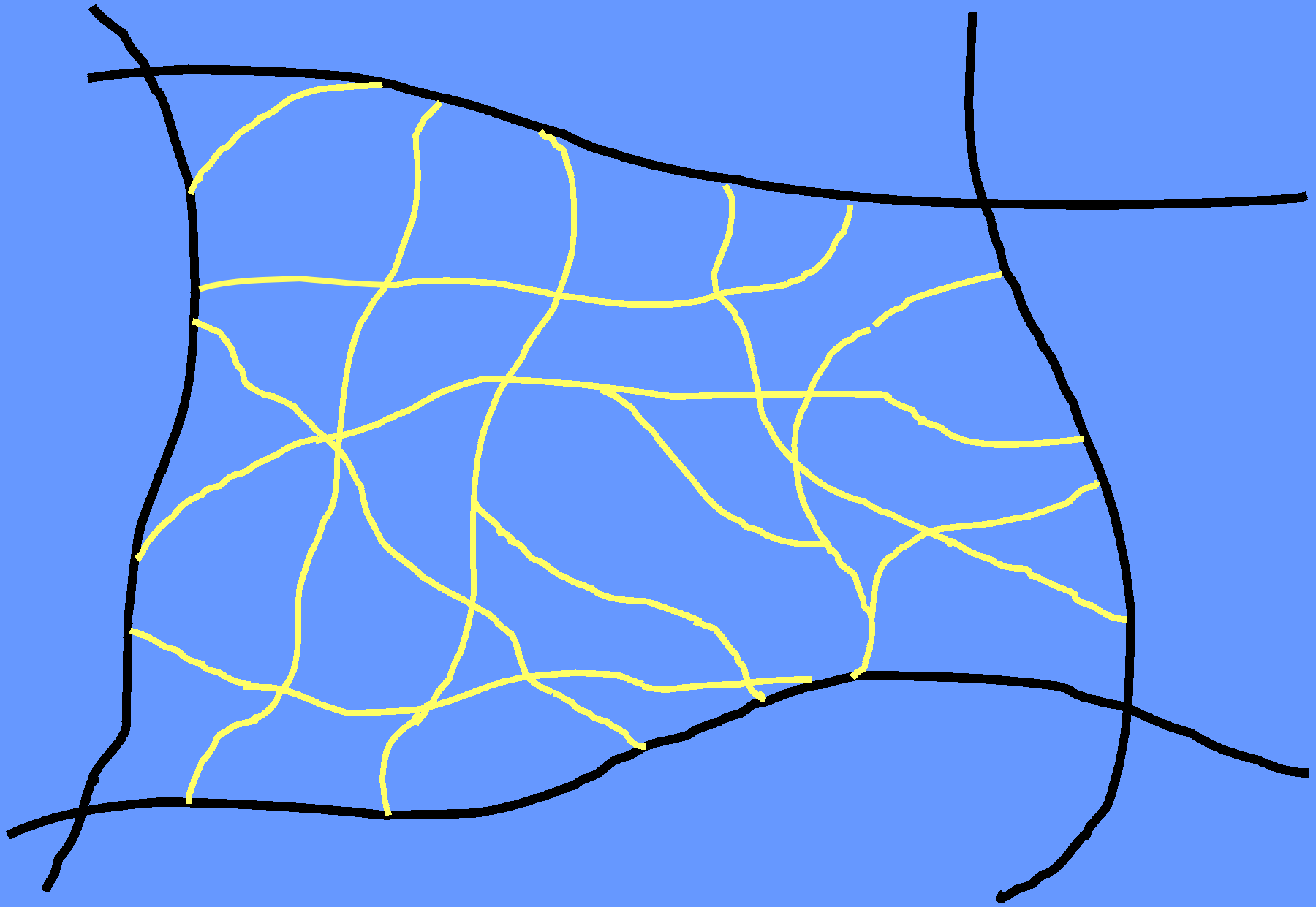
29 miles in Rand Mountains
ACEC

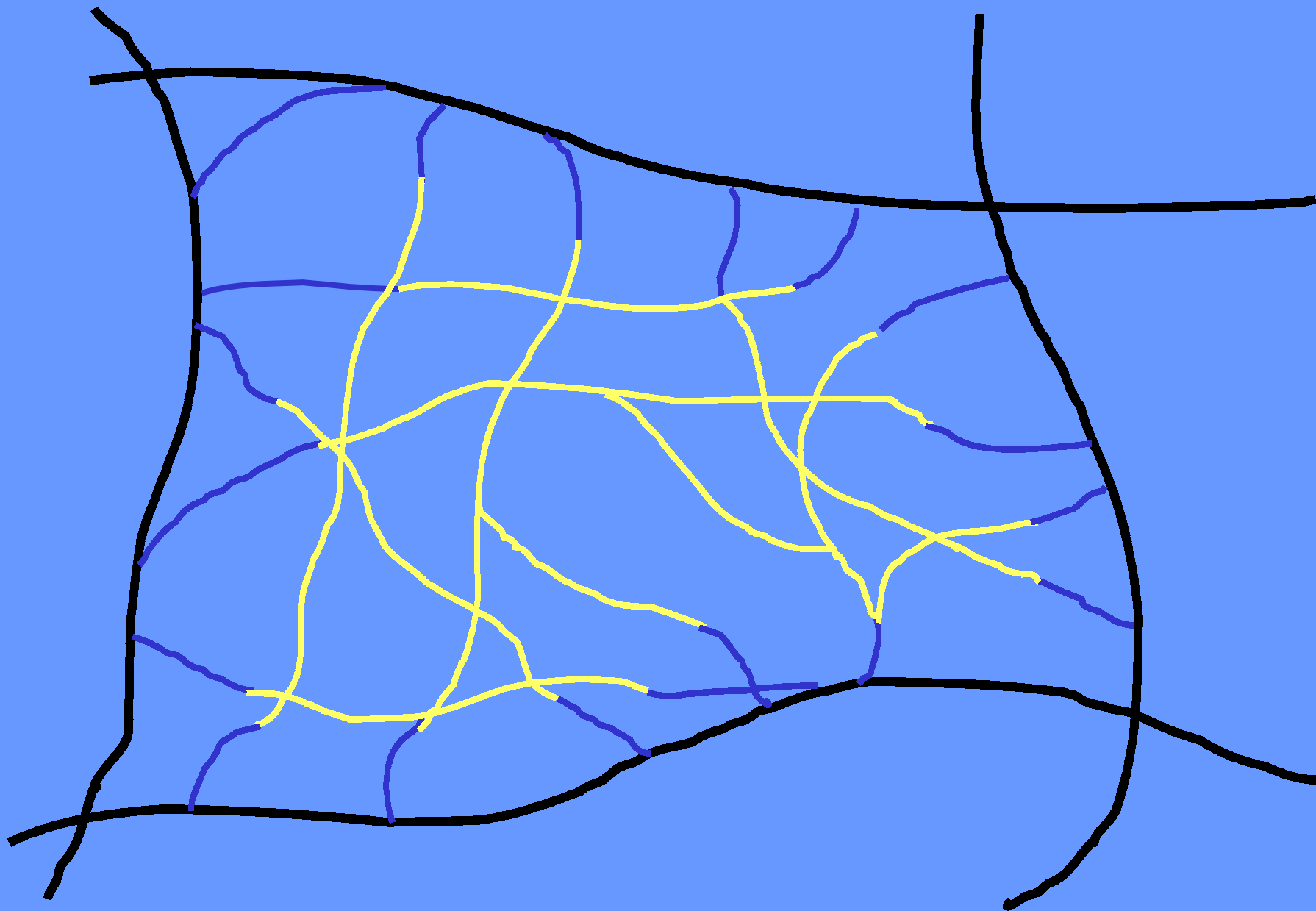
The Enemy.....



The Illegal Trespass





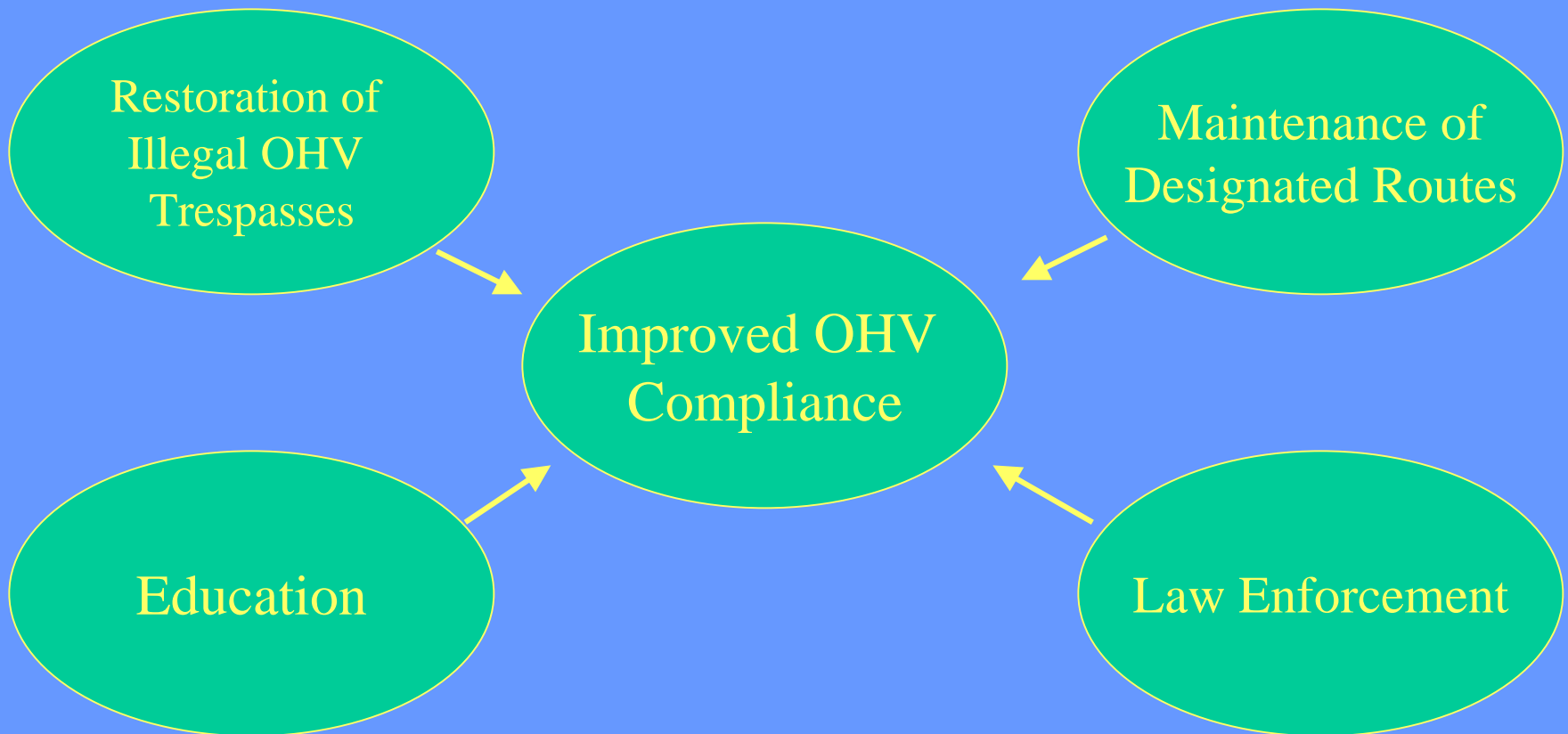


Effects of OHV Use

- Air & Noise Pollution
- Habitat Loss & Fragmentation
- Soil Compaction & Erosion
- Wildlife Harassment



Restoration: A Comprehensive Effort



Methods of Trail Rehabilitation

Methods of Trail Rehabilitation

- Mechanical ripping alleviates soil compaction



Methods of Trail Rehabilitation



- Revegetation quickly increases plant cover

Methods of Trail Rehabilitation

- Vertical mulch disguises illegal trespasses



Methods of Trail Rehabilitation

- Rice straw bales discourage use of wide visible trails



Methods of Trail Rehabilitation

- Rocks can make illegal routes difficult to ride



Methods of Trail Rehabilitation

- Soil pitting and imprinting can trap seeds and water to speed natural recovery



Methods of Trail Rehabilitation

- Raking can erase single motorcycle tracks



Labor Costs

California Conservation Corps (CCC)

- \$50,000 for an eight week contract
- \$6,250 per 40+ hour week
- 8 crew members and a supervisor
- 20 trespasses per day / 70 per week
- \$50 - \$150 per trespass

Labor Costs

Student Conservation Association (SCA)

- \$230,000 for a ten month contract
- \$5,250 per week
- 7 person crew
- We expect more trespasses restored per week, and therefore more cost-effective than CCC

Conclusions / Recommendations

- Take time to determine objectives and plan restoration strategies
- Document results! Experiment! Share!
- Exclude the disturbance
- Create conditions for natural revegetation



Goldenbush (*Ericameria cooperi*) naturally invading blocked trail



Desert trumpet (*Eriogonum inflatum*) naturally invading blocked trail

Conclusions / Recommendations

- Planting nursery stock may not be right for all projects
- Timing is important – be ready for wet years
- Are we creating more problems than we're solving?
- Cacti are your friend!



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Silver cholla (*Opuntia echinocarpa*) after five years

Conclusions / Recommendations

- Invest in understanding the recreation visitor to public lands
- Understand that there are ecological, political, and *psychological* challenges

For more information...

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